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Phoenix, Arizona*



*United States Attorney's Office
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PRISON GUARD CHARGED WITH SEXUAL ABUSE OF PRISONERS

PHOENIX -- Agents arrested and took into custody Monday a federal prison guard who is charged with the sexual abuse of two prisoners under his supervision at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix. On November 16, a federal grand jury returned the indictment of Fletcher Isler, 45, of Waddell, Ariz, charging him with five counts of Abusive Sexual Contact of two female inmates at the prison in 2005 and 2006.

"Federal prisons are some of the finest in the world, and this kind of behavior is obviously an aberration," stated U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona Paul K. Charlton. "But even a single incident is unacceptable because it represents a violation of trust."

The indictment alleges that between January and June 2006, Isler knowingly and repeatedly engaged in sexual contact including intentional touching with the intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person, of a female inmate under the custodial, supervisory, or disciplinary authority of Isler. The indictment also alleges that between August and December 2005, Isler sexually abused a second inmate under his authority.

FBI Phoenix Division Special Agent in Charge John E. Lewis stated, "Federal Correction Officers are responsible for the safety and care of federal prisoners. Though found guilty of crimes against society and placed in an enclosed and segregated population, inmates are not stripped of all their civil liberties and basic human rights while serving sentences. Inmates have the right to be protected from abusive sexual conduct. The FBI will vigorously pursue violations of Federal law to include when victims happen to be inmates. The FBI appreciates the assistance provided by the Bureau of Prisons during this investigation."

A conviction for Abusive Sexual Contact carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. In determining an actual sentence, the judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Special Investigative Agents from the Bureau of Prisons. The prosecution is being handled by Kurt M. Altman, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1019-PHX
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-245(Isler)

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